

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

Date: 9 September 2014

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – Asset Management

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. During discussions on the budget proposals for 2014/15, the Leader of Council made a request via the Resources and Council Services Scrutiny Board for a scrutiny inquiry on asset management. Asset management falls within this Board's portfolio, and the Board provisionally agreed in February 2014 to include this as an inquiry for its work programme in 2014/15. The attached terms of reference for the inquiry were agreed by the Board at its meeting on 1 July (Appendix 1).
2. The first formal session of the inquiry was held on 22 July and the second session will take place at this meeting.
3. The terms of reference identified the following areas to be addressed at the second session of the inquiry:
 - *To receive evidence from local Members and other departments about their contribution to the asset management rationalisation programme, including details of any good practice, opportunities or barriers that are emerging*
 - *To receive evidence from third sector representatives about how they are being engaged in the rationalisation programme*
 - *To receive evidence about the One Public Estate pilot programme, and the role of public sector partners in making better use of our assets*
4. In line with the terms of reference, the following evidence and witnesses have been organised:

- Councillor Caroline Gruen has been invited to share her experience as a ward member for Bramley in working with Asset Management to develop an acceptable solution to enable rationalisation of a number of Council properties in Bramley
- The third sector organisation Health for All has been invited to attend the Board to share its experience in working on asset related issues with the council across a number of buildings in south Leeds.
- Two departments (Adult Social Care and Citizens and Communities) have been asked to attend to discuss how their current initiatives relate to the corporate asset rationalisation imperative.

Adult Social Care have provided the report attached at 7b on the development of Integrated Health and Social Care teams. Representatives from both Adult Social Care and Leeds Community Health will attend the Board. This also links to the One Public Estate programme.

Citizens and Communities have provided the report attached at 7c on the role of Community Hubs. A representative from the Directorate will attend the Board.

5. At the first session of the inquiry in July the Board identified a number of further pieces of information that it required from Asset Management in order to assist the inquiry and the attached report at 7d sets out the requested information. Officers from Asset Management will attend the Board and the Executive Member for Transport and the Economy has been invited.
6. It was also agreed in July to bring forward the draft Asset Management Plan, so that Members could carry out pre-decision scrutiny as part of this inquiry and in advance of its submission to the Executive Board for approval. The draft Asset Management Plan is included within the report at 7d.

Next Steps

7. Following this session of the Board's inquiry, Members need to decide how they wish to proceed. The terms of reference envisaged that this may involve commissioning further evidence; concluding the inquiry and producing a report with the Board's recommendations; or resolving to monitor the progress of the asset management rationalisation programme on a regular basis.

Recommendation

8. Members are requested to decide the next steps in progressing their inquiry on asset management.

Background documents¹

None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.